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PATENTDocket Number: 16356.662 (DC-03303)  
Customer No. 000027683

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:  
Merkin, Cynthia M., et al.

Serial No.: 09/977,777

Filed: October 15, 2001

For: COMPUTER SYSTEM WARRANTY  
UPGRADE METHOD AND APPARATUS  
WITH CONFIGURATION CHANGE  
DETECTION FEATURE§  
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Group Art Unit: 2167

Examiner: Unassigned

Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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GROUP 3600

## TRANSMITTAL

Prior to examination, enclosed are the following regarding the above-identified patent application:

1. Preliminary Amendment;
2. Return postcard; and
3. Transmittal letter (in duplicate).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with any of the papers submitted herewith to Deposit Account No. 08-1394.

Respectfully submitted,

  
James R. Bell  
Registration No. 26,528Dated: 4-29-03  
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP  
901 Main Street, Suite 3100  
Dallas, Texas 75202-3789  
Telephone: 512/867-8407  
Facsimile: 512/867-8470

A-148297.1

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231	
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Box Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner For Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

*Note: This Preliminary Amendment has been submitted in a format proposed in a Pre-OG Notice, dated January 31, 2003, signed by Steven Kunin, Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy. More information about this format can be found at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/dapp/opla/preognotice/revamdtprac.htm>.*

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Minor changes have been made to the specification. Claims 1, 2, 12, 28 and 29 are amended and claims 1-31 remain in the application.